

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07423 160520 Z

15 11

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 SS-15 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 EUR-25 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-12 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 OMB-01 XMB-07

BNDD-05 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-10 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06

PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 L-03 /201 W
----- 074284

R 110706 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3084

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7423

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (R E N U M B E R I N G O F P A R A G R A P H S)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: THAI CANDIDATE FOR COLOMBO PLAN

1. WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY LEARNED FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCE THAT DR. SOMSONG KANCHANAHUTA HAS BEEN NOMINATED BY THE RTG FOR COLOMBO PLAN DRUG ADVISOR POSITION.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO KNOW DR. SOMSONG REGARD HIM AS EVNENTLY QUALIFIED FROM THE MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW FOR THE POSITION. AS DIRECTOR OF TQNYARAK HOSPITAL HE HEADS THE ONLY THAI GOVERNMENT FACILITY SOLELY DEDICATED TO THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS. HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN HELPING TO DRAFT THE UNFDAC/ WHO WORK PLAN FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECT IN THAILAND.

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WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL EXPERTISE HE MAY HAVE ON THE ENFORCEMENT AND CROP SUBSTITUTION SIDES OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE HEADED THE THAI DELEGATION TO THE ASEAN DRUG CONFERENCE IN MANILA LAST FALL, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE THAI DELEGATION TO THE CND MEETING IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY, INDICATING A BROAD ACQUAINTANCE WITH ALL ASPEVS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

3. IF SELECTED WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT DR. SOMSONG WOULD DO AN EXCELLENT JOB IN THE POSITION. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS THAT HIS PERIODICE ABSENCES FROM THAILAND MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT HIS PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE HOSPITAL AND HIS FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE UNFDAC/ WHO PROJECT IN THAILAND. HE IS SUCH A KEY INDIVIDUAL IN THESE RESPECTS THAT WE WOULD VIEW HIS SELECTION WITH MIXED EMOTIONS.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT' S GUIDANCE WE HAVE NOT INDICATED TO RTG ANY USG INTEREST IN INFLUENCING SELECTION OF DRUG ADVISOR.
UNGER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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